

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WARSAW 01932 081053Z POSS DUPE
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-08 EA-10 FRB-03 INR-10 IO-13 NEA-10
NSAE-00 USIA-06 OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 LAB-04
SIL-01 AGRE-00 OMB-01 SS-15 STR-07 NSC-05 SOE-02
DODE-00 DOE-11 H-01 INT-05 L-03 PM-05 OES-07
ACDA-12 /173 W

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R 080850Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3715
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMCONSUL KRAKOW POUCH
AMCONSUL POZNAN POUCH
USMISSION USNATO
USINT HAVANA

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EO 11652N/A
TAGS: ENRG, ECIN, PL, UR, HU, COMECON, EALR
SUBJ: POWER SHORTAGES IN POLAND AND CEMA ASSISTANCE

WREF: MOSCOW 03497 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: SHORTAGES OF ELECTRIC POWER IN POLAND
HAVE RESULTED IN URGENT CONSERVATION DEMANDS AND POWER CUTS TO SOME
INDUSTRIES. POLAND WILL RECEIVE SOME POWER FROM THE 750-KILOVOLT
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PAGE 02 WARSAW 01932 081053Z POSS DUPE

LINE BEING BUILT FROM THE UKRAINE TO HUNGARY AS A CEMA MULTILATERAL
PROJECT. ON MARCH 7, THE GOP ANNOUNCED THE FORMATION OF A NEW ORGANI-
ZATION TO DEVELOP A LONG-TERM PROGRAM FOR FUEL AND ENERGY
MANAGEMENT# END SUMMARY.

2. WE CAN CONFIRM THAT THE CEMA SPONSORED 750-KILOVOLT POWER LINE
PROJECT FROM VINNITSA IN THE UKRAINE TO ALBERTIRSHA IN

HUNGARY (MOSCOW'S REFTTEL ON CEMA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING) IS DEFINITELY A MULTILATERAL CEMA PROJECT. POLAND HAS CONTRIBUTED EQUIPMENT AND ENGINEERING PERSONNEL FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THIS LINE AND IS--ON PAPER--SCHEDULED TO BEGIN RECEIVING ELECTRIC POWER FROM IT IN 1979 OR 1980. THE VINNITSA-ALBERTIRSHA LINE HAS BEEN REGULARLY INCLUDED BY THE POLISH PRESS IN LISTINGS OF VARIOUS MULTILATERAL CEMA PROJECTS ON SOVIET TERRITORY IN WHICH EE COUNTRIES ARE INVESTING AND FROM WHICH THEY WILL--EVENTUALLY--BE BENEFICIARIES OF ENERGY AND RAW MATERIALS.

3. POLAND URGENTLY NEEDS THE ADDITIONAL ELECTRICITY WHICH WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM THE VINNITSA-ALBERTIRSHA PROJECT BECAUSE POWER HAS MOVED INTO THE COUNTRY'S LONG LIST OF SHORTAGES OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS. THERE HAVE BEEN OCCASIONAL PRESS REPORTS OF POWER CUTS IN RECENT MONTHS AND DEMANDS FOR PUBLIC COOPERATION IN SAVING ELECTRICITY. AN ARTICLE IN TRYBUNA LUDU ON FEB 24 DESCRIBES THE SITUATION IN THE POLISH POWER INDUSTRY AS "DIFFICULT AND TENSE", WITH THE CONSERVATION OF ELECTRICITY "A CATEGORICAL IMPERATIVE." IT NOTES THAT THE MAXIMUM ATTAINABLE POWER OUTPUT -- WHEN ALL GENERATING EQUIPMENT IS OPERATING PROPERLY -- IS 18,500 MEGAWATTS. ON THE MORNING OF FEB 22, PEAK DEMAND ROSE TO NEARLY 16,700 MEGAWATTS AND IN THE EVENING TO OVER 18,400. CONSEQUENTLY, IT WAS NECESSARY TO EFFECT CERTAIN "NOT DRASTIC CUTS IN POWER SUPPLY TO SOME PLANTS USING LARGE AMOUNTS..SMALL CONSUMERS AND THE POPULATION WERE NOT UNDULY AFFECTED". THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES BY DEMANDING "RATIONAL CONSUMPTION" DURING PEAK PERIODS AND STRESSING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 WARSAW 01932 081053Z POSS DUPE

THE IMPORTANCE OF RAPID RAIL TRANSPORT OF COAL FROM SILESIA TO POWER STATIONS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.

4. ON MARCH 7, THE POLISH PRESS ANNOUNCED THE LAUNCHING OF A SPECIAL COMMISSION, HEADED BY VICE PREMIER JAN SZYDLAK, TO DEVELOP A LONG-TERM

PROGRAM FOR FUEL AND ENERGY MANAGEMENT THROUGH THE YEAR 2000. THE PROGRAM CALLS FOR CLOSE COOPERATION WITH THE USSR AND THE OTHER COMECON COUNTRIES, AND WE ASSUME THAT DELIVERIES FROM THE VINNITSA-ALBERTIRSHA LINE WILL BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF IT.

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